

CLAIMS

1. A method for the removal of abnormal infective prion proteins associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopies (TSEs) from an aqueous liquid containing a natural product, which comprises passing the liquid through a depth filter formed of a matrix comprising solid particles of porous material and having a pore size providing a retention less than $6\mu\text{m}$.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises a binder.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the binder is cellulose.
4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the solid porous particles are kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof.
5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the solid porous particles are diatomaceous earth particles.
6. A method according to any preceding claim carried out in the absence of cationic or anionic charged material.
7. A method according to any preceding claim carried out at a pH in the range 4 to 10.

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8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 6 microns.
9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 1.5 microns.
10. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the depth filter has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm.
11. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the natural product is a protein.
12. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a blood plasma product.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the blood plasma product is albumin, an immunoglobulin, Factor IX, thrombin, fibronectin, fibrinogen, Factor VIII, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor IX, or Factor X.
14. A liquid subjected to prion removal according to the method of any preceding claim.

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